

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-06 COME-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 MC-02 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-10 NSAE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /087 W

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R 140938Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4702

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5514

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, SOPN, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH OPINION ON F-104 REPLACEMENT

REF: THE HAGUE 5174

1. SUMMARY: POLL PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 12 BY HIGHLY RESPECTED NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC OPINION (NIPO) SHOWS THAT MAJORITY OF DUTCH BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ALL FOUR CONSORTIUM PARTNERS TO BUY THE SAME REPLACEMENT FIGHTER. PLURALITY OF THOSE POLLED ARE OF OPINION THAT BETTER AIRPLANES COME FROM U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A POLL OF 1,101 DUTCHMEN OCTOBER 14-15, NIPO FOUND THAT 51 PERCENT CONSIDERED IT "USEFUL" FOR CONSORTIUM TO SELECT ONE AIRCRAFT, WHILE 20 PERCENT UNCLASSIFIED

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DID NOT CONSIDER IT TO BE USEFUL, AND ANOTHER 20

PERCENT OF OPINION THAT NO AIRCRAFT NEEDED. SUPPORTERS OF THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY, THE DOMINANT PARTY IN COALITION GOVERNMENT, WERE LEAST CONVINCED THAT CONSORTIUM MEMBERS SHOULD MAKE IDENTICAL DECISION, AND WERE ALSO GROUP WHICH LEAST ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BUYING ANY REPLACEMENT FOR F-104S.

3. QUESTION AS TO WHICH COUNTRY COULD BE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE THE BEST FIGHTER AIRCRAFT SHOWED FOLLOWING RESULTS: 36 PERCENT U.S., 17 PERCENT SWEDEN, 4 PERCENT FRANCE, 24 PERCENT EQUALLY GOOD, AND 19 PERCENT NO OPINION. (COMMENT: REMARKABLY LOW FIGURE FOR FRANCE PROBABLY INFLUENCED BY FACT THAT POLL TAKEN AT TIME WHEN BRIBERY SCANDAL ATTRACTING MUCH ATTENTION. END COMMENT) BREAKDOWN BY PARTY AFFILIATION SHOWS UNIFORMLY LOW OPINION OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. SWEDISH CAPABILITIES, ON OTHER HAND, SEEM IN FAVORABLE LIGHT BY RESPECTABLE PERCENTAGES IN ALL PARTIES.

4. ALSO ASKED TO STATE AN OPINION REGARDING THE NECESSITY FOR MAINTAINING A MILITARY BALANCE AGAINST THE WARSAW PACT, 66 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED SAID SUCH A BALANCE WAS NEEDED, AND 24 PERCENT SAID IT WAS NOT. NO OPINION WAS EXPRESSED BY 10 PERCENT. GOULD

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